

REMARKS

Claims 1, 14-15 and 33-36 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 10-15 and 33-36 are presently pending.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during the telephonic Examiner interview conducted on August 20, 2004.

In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims, as presently presented, are respectfully requested.

EXAMINER'S ACTION**The 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-15 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter not described in the specification, and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The Examiner stated that the term "whole image", which is recited in all of the independent claims, is nowhere mentioned in the originally filed disclosure. The Examiner also stated that the meaning of the term "whole image" is unclear in view of the applicant's assertion, in the remarks of the previous response, that a beam that is split cannot contain a "whole image." The Examiner then stated that "Applicant's claimed invention does indeed split (see Fig. 1: BS) a beam into a plurality of beams. Thus, it is unclear how Applicant's embodiment provides a "whole image", and yet the prior art of record do not."

As discussed during the telephonic Examiner interview, the Examiner's inability to understand what the term "whole image" means in the claims stems, in part, from the applicant's use of the term "split", in the Remarks portion of the Amendment filed on October 21, 2003, to describe what Montpas discloses. (See, for example, last line of

page 10 of the October 21, 2003 Amendment). To clarify what are the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art, which includes Montpas, we note that Montpas discloses dividing a light beam into quadrants using four reflective facets of a suitably oriented pyramid, and then directing each divided light beam onto one of four photosensitive surfaces. (See Montpas Col. 2, lines 41-61). In other words, Montpas "portions" an incident beam of light into separate parts, such that a photosensitive surface, to which a separated part of the beam of light is provided, only receives a portion of the incident beam of light. As the beam of light in Montpas can represent, for example, an image of an object, the dividing of the beam by the pyramid in Montpas provides that only a portion of the image of the object is directed to a photosensitive surface. Thus, Montpas does not disclose providing an image of an object to respective portions of a photosensitive surface

In contrast to Montpas, the subject invention involves use of a beam splitter to cause an incident beam to split, *i.e.*, become reproduced in its entirety, so that an image of an object that the incident beam represents is provided to each respective portion of a photosensitive surface. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the gating and converting of an incident beam provides "an image of an object to each respective portion of the photosensitive surface", and claims 14-15 and 33-36 have been similarly amended to recite that "an image of an object" is provided to each respective portion of the photosensitive surface. Support for this claim amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 10-12, and also at page 7, paragraph 8 and in Figures 1 and 2, which describe and show that a beam splitter can provide four identical images of the object OB to each of the gatable portions GP1,

GP2, GP3 and GP4. It is well known by one of skill in the art that a beam splitter as described in the subject application can provide a plurality of identical images from a single image source and does not divide a beam in the manner of, for example, the reflective facets of the pyramid in Montpas.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the Section 112 rejections of the claims.

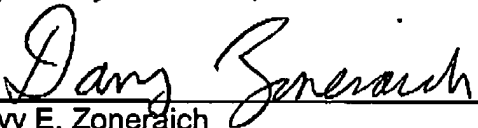
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all of the claims, as presently presented, are patentable.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it is believed that further amendment and/or discussion would help to advance the prosecution of the present application.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8, 10-15 and 33-36 are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorney Docket No. 20776-215US